A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 28. 1709.

MY Laſt addreſs'd it ſelf to the *Jacobite* Gentlemen of *Britain*; and really this ſeems ſo critical a Juncture to work upon their Reaſon, that I cannot but go on a little to expoſtulate with them—And I ſhall argue with them from two Points only.

1. The Lenity and Clemency of the Government to them.
2. The apparent Improbability of compaſſing their Deſigns.

I cannot think, railing at them and reproaching them at all the proper Method of treating them; Ill Language is none of my Element, I ſhall uſe them as Chriſtians, as Gentlemen, as *Britains*; and let their Deſigns have been what they will againſt us, I ſhall not revile them: My Deſign is, if poſſible, to reſtore them to their Country and to the Government, to themſelves and to their Friends. This I ſhall do by endeavouring to ſhow them their Miſtake, in taking up the ſinking Cauſe they have adher'd to; or if that may not be, by ſhowing them the Error of their Politicks, in perſiſting in it, when it is moſt apparent, they can never obtain the End they aim at. No wiſe Man will play on a loſt Game; no good Sailer will ſtay in a ſinking Ship, but quit it in Time, leſt he be ingulph'd in her going down, and it be too late to eſcape.

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The Gentlemen, I am ſpeaking to, are far from *Fools*—I mean, they are not Men of Ignorance, in publick Affairs or in Politicks; indeed every Miſtake may be call'd Folly in ſome Senſe, but they are not Men imperceptible of things; they are not blind to the State of *Europe*: I ſhall treat them therefore as Men of Judgment and Men of Reaſon; if they deprive themſelves of the Uſe of that Reaſon or Judgment by their Prejudices, and by too warmly eſpouſing the Cauſe they embark in, that is not my Fault——However, *whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear*, as the Prophet of Old was commanded to ſpeak to the People, ſo ſhall I; if they are not convinc'd of their Miſtake by it, others ſhall be convinc'd, that they will be inexcuſable in the Purſuit, and unpity'd in the Event.

And *firſt* I ſhall argue from the Lenity and Clemency of the Government——Men of Senſe and Men of Honour can never long reſiſt the Importunities of Gratitude and Kindneſs——An Enemy, that has any Principles of Generoſity, when Force has not been able to reduce him, will be won with Acts of Goodneſs——Now, Gentlemen, here is a Government, that like Heaven has ſtrove to conquer you with Mercy, when at the ſame time it is evident to your ſelves—It wants not Power to reduce you by Force.

In the Infancy of the War you might, *and warmly enough you did*, deſpiſe the Power of the Government, and depend upon your recovering your Cauſe by the Arms of your Confederates, and loudly we were threatned with Re-revolutions, Retribution, and the like, and GOD knows how many the Hopes of this made *Jacobites*, who, but for that Deluſion, had never eſpouſed the Cauſe——But, Gentlemen, it is four Years at leaſt, ſince your own Reaſon could not but dictate to you a certain Defect of Power, and that your Cauſe muſt have ſomething miraculous to recover it——And ever ſince that, you may have been ſaid to ſin againſt the Goodneſs of the Government, *not againſt its Power*.

To enforce this; it is apparent, that *the greater* the Government has grown, the *more Victories* it has obtain'd over its Enemies, the *firmer* it has been eſtabliſh'd—The *more* it has grown *above the Fear* or Apprehenſion of being over-turn'd, the greater and the farther has this Clemency been extended. *In other Caſes*, where Power has been unable to reduce an Enemy in its own Bowels, it has politickly born with their Inſults, till a fairer Occaſion of Puniſhment has preſented; *and then*, as Victory and Succeſs has crown'd its Endeavour, it has let them ſee, it only wanted Power to puniſh before, and has fully reveng'd it ſelf, according to the Example of Scripture, *to bring thoſe People, who would not have this Man to reign over them, and ſlay them before him.* But the preſent Government has dealt otherwiſe with you; as Succeſs and Victory have encreas'd its Power, *Mercy* has encreas'd: The Clemency of this Reign to the moſt inveterate Oppoſers of the Conſtitution, would require a long Hiſtory to recite it; and let me tell the Gentlemen of that Party, ſhould the Inſults and Provocations of the *Jacobite* Party to the Government be ſet down at the ſame time, and plac'd againſt the Lenity and Forbearance of the Government, Poſterity would bluſh for them, to think how they could act againſt a Power that treated them in ſuch a Manner. Take a Sketch of *Jacobitiſm*, as it has reſpected the Behaviour of the Party to the Government, and as it regards the Behaviour of the Government to them, and judge for your ſelves, Gentlemen, whether, had you been in the Government's Place, you could have born it.

How in the private Meetings of their Worſhip, they have not only left out the Prayers for the Queen, but openly pray'd for the reſtoring and eſtabliſhing her Enemy, whom they have always given the Stile and Title of the Dominions of her Majeſty, under whoſe Protection they liv'd.

How in their Prints and Writings they have branded the eſtabliſh'd Churches of *England* and *Scotland* as Schiſmatick and Illegal, and preſcrib'd the Church of *England* to the Exauctorate Biſhops, Clergy, *&c.* and ſuch of their Adherents as have rejected the Government.

How they have publickly avow'd the Doctrine of Divine Right, inherent in the Perſons

Perſon and Line of their Kings, maintaining directly thereby, that the Queen was an Uſurper, the Revolution a manifeſt Rebellion, and the Legal Right of limitting the Succeſſion eſtabliſh'd in the Parliament of *Britain*, a Diabolical Invaſion of the Divine Inſtitution.

How they have in all their publick Converſation drank Healths to the Pretender, Confuſion to the Revolution, Succeſſion, Union, and all the Branches of the Eſtabliſh'd Conſtitution, viſibly rejoyc'd at *French* Victories, and appear'd Chagrin at the Succeſſes of the Government; kept as a Day of Rejoycing the Anniverſary of the Pretender's Birth, and openly refus'd to joyn in publick Faſts for Succeſs of the Confederate Armies, or in publick Thankſgiving for Succeſſes when obtain'd.

How they have invited over a *French* Popiſh Power to reſtabliſh their Cauſe in *Scotland*, have viſibly encourag'd the Invaſion of their Country, and done their Endeavour to involve a peaceable Nation in Blood and Deſtruction.

I do not think, I wrong any Man that is profeſſly *Jacobite*, in ſaying, that *quat. Jacobite*, he has either directly or obliquely, profeſſly or tacitly, been concern'd in all theſe Heads. I forbear to aggravate or enlarge on Things, nor am I ſatyrizing Perſons, and therefore deſcend no more to Particulars——— Let us now enquire, what has been the Treatment the Government has ſhown them under all this.

Upon all Occaſions, wherein they have lain open to Juſtice, we find as few of them ſuffering as poſſible; in Plots, in Correſpondence with Enemies, in betraying our Counſels, in Invaſions, in Tumults and Riots, in Pamphlets and ſeditious Writings, in furious Preachings; in ſhort, all their Excurſions, wherein the Law could take hold of them, and in which the Government had it in their Power to puniſh, all the Tenderneſs in the World has been uſed towards them——— The very Sentences of the Law have not been executed; how many have been pardon'd, how few puniſh'd; in the Aſſaſſination of King *William*, how few were put to Death, and none but ſuch as againſt whom there was no other Defence? In the Tumults about the Union in *Scotland*, not one Man ſuffer'd; in the Invaſion, not a Drop of Blood yet ſpilt——— And at laſt, to crown all, and make the Work of Royal Mercy compleat, unaſk'd, unexpected, and I am ſorry to ſay it, too much unthank'd, her Majeſty has of her own Native Clemency, and to try if they may at laſt be prevail'd on to bethink themſelves, granted a general, full and free Pardon——All Invaſions from abroad, Inſults and Confederacies at home; all the undutiful Behaviour, the Eſpouſing a Foreign Intereſt, and Affronts to the Government; in ſhort all Kinds and Conſequences of Jacobitiſm and Diſaffection, are forgotten and forgiven —— Thus the Queen heaps Coals of Fire upon their Heads, and loads them with the juſt Reproach of inimitable Ingratitude——— Her Majeſty has made the worſt Enemy, the moſt inveterate profeſs'd Traytor, perfectly eaſie; By-gons are By-gons, all Reſentment is laid aſleep, all Crime obliterated, black Criminals are waſh'd white, the old Score of Treaſon, Faction, Diſaffection, and Anti-Revolutioning is wip'd out, and the Gentlemen are now at Liberty to tick for more.

Will any Excuſe, *after this*, be left to a Party to oppoſe this Government? Is it poſſible, the Queen could do more to oblige them, than to make them eaſie under all their State-Apprehenſions, and frankly remit all their Follies? —What can be expected after this, if Men will renew their Oppoſition? — I hinted already, that the Clemency of the Government ſhould not be expected to laſt always, that a Time would come, when the leaden Feet of Juſtice would come up with a continued offending Party, and they cannot have the Face to expect more Patience in a Nation, that has already ſo long labour'd under the Diſeaſe of their Diſaffection.

The Queen has ſtrove to conquer you all with Clemency and Kindneſs; pray, Gentlemen, examine, what End can her Majeſty propoſe to her ſelf in it——— 'Tis plain, Power is not wanting to cruſh you; of which by it ſelf——— 'Tis plain, it is by no Means in Apprehenſion of your Party, which is now grown contemptible and deſpicable